generation and Government have announced a new National Tourism Policy for this purpose; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Tourism is a major social phenomenon of the modern society with enormous economic consequences. Its importance as an instrument for economic development and employment generation has now been well recognised the world over. The existing Tourism Policy was announced by the Government in the year 2002 to provide a framework for development of tourism in the country with the objective of reaping the socio-economic benefits of the sector.

(b) The Policy aims to position India as a global brand to take advantage of the burgeoning global travel and trade, and the vast untapped potential of India as a destination. The Policy, also aims to:

position tourism as a major engine of economic growth;

acknowledge the critical role of private sector, with Government working as a pro-active facilitator and catalyst;

reate and develop integrated tourism circuits based on India's unique civilization, heritage, and culture in partnership with states and private sector, and

ensure that the tourists to India get physically invigorated, mentally rejuvenated, culturally enriched, spiritually elevated and "feel India fromwithin".

After the announcement of the policy, the activites of the Ministry are prioritized and guided as per the policy document.

Development of tourism in Lucknow

†2320. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for development of tourism in Lucknow;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the State Government have forwarded any proposals/ estimates in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the action taken by Government on the said plans/ works of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. Ministry of Tourism Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UTs for tourist related projects which are identified in consultation with the State concerned every year for providing financial assistance under the scheme integrated Development of Tourism Circuits, Product/Infrastructure and Destination and Large Revenue Generating Projects.

Lucknow-Dudhwa-Katarniaghat Tourist Circuit has been identified for providing financial assistance during the current financial year but not proposal has been received from the State Government. Project proposals that are complete in all respect are approved on the basis of inter-se priority and funds are released subject to availability under the respective head.

Development of Buddhist Circuit in Orissa

2321. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Orissa has drawn up an ambitious project to develop the Buddhist circuit in the State to attract tourists;

(b) whether the State Government has asked for some help from the Centre to achieve the objective; and

(c) if so, the details thereof with an action plan of the Centre to help the State to exploit the potential in tourism industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.